

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|----|--------------------------|--|--------------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | | Complete if Known | | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) | | | Application Number | Not yet assigned Continuation of 09/986,597 | |
| | | | Filing Date | Even date herewith | |
| | | | First Named Inventor | Akihiko HIRANO | |
| | | | Art Unit | 2651 (expected) | |
| | | | Examiner Name | Rocio Colon (expected) | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 500.38183CC2 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials ¹ | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | | |
| AM | | US- 5,045,958 | | 09-1991 | EJIMA | |
| AM | | US- 8,081,210 | | 08-2000 | NIKOLIC et al. | |
| AM | | US- 8,130,629 | | 10-2000 | AZIZ et al. | |
| AM | | US- 8,234,847 | | 08-2001 | McCLELLAN et al. | |
| AM | | US- 8,282,690 | | 08-2001 | McCLELLAN et al. | |
| AM | | US- 6,333,841 | | 01-2002 | HIRANO et al. | |
| | | US- | | | | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials ¹ | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ² |
| | | Country Code ² -Number ² -Kind Code ² (if known) | | | | | |
| AM | | JP - A - 11-243345 | | | | | |

| OTHER PRIOR ART--NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| Examiner Initials ¹ | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published | | T ² |
| | | AM | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Examiner Signature | Natalia Figueroa | Date Considered | 02/07/2005 |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------|

¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

²Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Best Available Copy